


INDIANA


CHARLESTOWN
STATE PARK



Rugged and winding, the Fourteenmile Creek valley at Charlestown State Park is one of the oldest unglaciated stream valleys in Indiana. Even though this valley was unglaciated, melt water from glaciers north of the park area helped carve the valley into it's current depth and width. The creek today appears as a long winding "ribbon" lake rather than a flowing stream. This unique appearance is due to locks and dams on the Ohio River which maintain the river levels above what they were hundreds of years ago. For it's entire journey through Charlestown State Park, Fourteenmile Creek is essentially at the same elevation as is the Ohio River. During those periods when the Ohio River level is going up, Fourteenmile Creek actually appears to flowing in reverse as rising river waters back up into the creek valley.

From 1940 through 1995, the park land was part of the Indiana Army Ammunition

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

 **CAMPING** — Campground equipped with flush toilets, hot water and showers. Occupancy is limited to two weeks. All sites have electricity and will accommodated trailers also dump and water filling stations are available. There are accessible sites with a walkway to the comfort stations. Camping reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

FISHING — Bass, bluegill, catfish and other gamefish are common in Fourteenmile Creek. A state fishing license is required. See Map for best stream access.

HIKING — More than 5 miles of hiking trails are available. They are rated as moderate or rugged.

PICNIC AREAS — Include toilet facilities, playground equipment, shelters and playfields.

PLAYGROUNDS — Availble in the campground and the picnic area along trail 2.

SHELTERS — Reservations for shelters available through the Central Reservation System.

TELEPHONE — A public phone is located near the gatehouse.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION about activities and facilities is available at the gatehouse.

Recreational facility development began in 1995 and the park opened in 1996 with picnicking, fishing, and hiking available. The modern campground opened in 1999 and expanded in 2002.

Please visit again and watch this young park mature as additional activities and facilities are added in the years to come.

Please let wild animals remain wild. Feeding of wild animals is prohibited. It can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on hand-outs become a nuisance to park visitors and often suffer from malnutrition. Please lock up all food and coolers inside cars or campers. Roll car windows up tightly.

Plant which totaled approximately 15,000 acres at one time. Prior to the establishment of the plant, most of the park was used for farmland or pasture land and old aerial photographs show the park as open area with very few trees. Prudent resource management over the last 50+ years by the Army allowed and encouraged reforestation of the rugged hills and deep ravines associated with Fourteenmile Creek.

DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS

1. **RUGGED**—2.2 miles. Begins at the Trail 1 parking lot and follows an existing gravel road a short distances before turning to the left and slowly descending into the Fourteenmile Creek Valley. It then meanders through dense floodplain forest before climbing up the valley wall to wind along rock outcrops and abutments. A lower portion of the trail offers scenic views of Fourteenmile Creek before climbing again as it returns to the parking lot. Spring wildflowers along portions of this trail will treat the hiker to stunning displays. The rustle of wild turkeys as they search for food on the forest floor, the brilliant flash of a scarlet tanager, or the piercing cry of an osprey are a few of the many natural delights available on this rugged trail as it meanders through pristine areas with diverse vegetation and topography.
2. **MODERATE** — 1 mile. Begins in the picnic area and follows several stream ravines as it circles back to return to the picnic area. The middle section of this trail runs along hillsides heavily forested with mixed deciduous hardwoods, bridges several small ravines, and offers scenic views of several small cascading falls and rock bottom streams. A self guiding brochure for this trail is available at the park entrance gatehouse for hikers wishing to learn more about the vegetation types and geology.
3. **RUGGED** —1.8 miles. Begins in a parking lot constructed prior to the establishment of this state park and follows a gravel service road through an open area before turning and making a very steep descent to Fourteenmile Creek. This portion of the trail follows a road grade which once led to a footbridge over Fourteenmile Creek. The bridge provided access to Rose Island a turn of the century amusement park. Both the bridge and the Rose Island facilities were destroyed by the 1937 flood. Good areas for stream bank fishing can be reached by following the gravel portion of Trail 3 to Fourteenmile Creek.

CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEMS

Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests can be made by going online or use the toll free number.

www.camp.IN.gov
1-866-6campIN
(1-866-622-6746)



Reservations for the Indiana State Park Inns and Inn-operated cabins can be made by going online or use the toll free number.

www.indianainns.com
1-877-lodges1
(1-877-563-4371)



Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Charlestown State Park
P.O. Box 38
Charlestown, Indiana 47111

Mapping Address: Charlestown State Park
12500 State Road 62
Charlestown, Indiana 47111
Call: (812) 256-5600

DNR

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
www.IN.gov/dnr

SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. A list of fees is available at the gatehouse.

The programs, services, facilities and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire futher information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington St., Rm. W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020

(description of trails continues)
After making the 250 foot descent into the valley, the trail turns left and follows the Fourteenmile Creek valley upstream before turning left again to make the steep ascent back up to the parking lot. The middle section of this trail is very scenic with views of Fourteenmile Creek, rock cliffs high above the trail, abundant spring wildflowers, and mixed deciduous forests which appear today much the same as they did thousands of years ago.

4. **Rugged** — 2.5 miles. Trail 4 begins at same parking lot as trail 3. Beginning on gently rolling land, this trail soon begins to descend into mixed hardwood forests as it follows tributaries of Fourteenmile Creek. At about the halfway point, hikers will see commanding views of Fourteenmile Creek from a bluff over 100 feet above the water. High quality woodlands and striking wildflower displays are found on this trail.

PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS!



INDIANA JEWEL
State Campground

FOR VALUE MINDED CAMPERS!

Charlestown State Park has been identified as an "INDIANA JEWEL" state campground. As a result you will find lower prices for campsites all season here.

THIS IS YOUR PARK

All visitors are expected to observe the following rules which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the use and enjoyment of the people.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal within the Park. Do not gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood! It must be allowed to remain to rebuild the natural humus.
- Any firearm, BB gun, air gun, CO₂ gun, bow and arrow, or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle except when participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
- Dogs and cats must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and attended at all times.
- There shall be no vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources.
- Fires shall be built only in places provided.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day use areas.
- Please observe posted speed limits and park in designated areas.
- Swimming is not allowed.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Report lost or found articles to the park office.
- Vehicles must stay on paved roadways and must meet legal requirements under Indiana's vehicle code. Snowmobiles are prohibited.
- Use of metal detectors prohibited.
- The park is closed from sunset until 7 a.m.
- Fossil, rock, and mineral collecting is prohibited.
- Fireworks are prohibited.
- **All boats on Fourteenmile Creek are restricted to the use of electric motors only. This rule is strictly enforced!**

For a complete list of rules and regulations inquire at park office.